

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A server computer comprising:
 - means arranged to store at least one or more digital signatures;
 - means arranged to store at least one or more digital signatures;
 - each computer file having an associated digital signature;
 - means arranged to receive a request from at least one other computer for access to at least one computer file stored on said server computer;
 - means arranged to retrieve ~~the or each~~ said at least one requested computer file;
 - means arranged to retrieve the digital signature or signatures associated with ~~the or each~~ said at least one requested computer file;
 - means arranged to validate the digital signature or signatures associated with ~~the or each~~ said at least one requested computer file; and
 - means arranged to deny said other computer access to ~~the or each~~ said at least one requested computer file if the digital signature or signatures associated with ~~the or each~~ respective requested computer file is invalid.

2. (Currently Amended) A server computer as ~~claimed~~ in claim 1 further comprising:

means arranged to store a list of approved computer file signing parties;

each computer file signing party having at least one associated signing key with which to create digital signatures; and in which

said means arranged to validate the digital signature associated ~~the~~ ~~or~~ each requested computer file invalidates said digital signature if said digital signature was created with a signing key not associated with an approved computer file signing party.

3. (Currently Amended) A server computer as ~~claimed~~ in claim 1 further comprising a clock, wherein ~~the~~ ~~or~~ each computer file stored on said server computer has an associated expiry date; such that:

said means arranged to validate the digital signature or signatures associated with ~~the~~ ~~or~~ ~~each~~ said at least one requested computer file invalidates said digital signature if the current clock date is later than the expiry date associated with ~~the~~ ~~or~~ ~~each~~ that computer file.

4. (Currently Amended) A server computer arranged to store at least one ~~or~~ ~~more~~ files, at least one ~~or~~ ~~more~~ digital signatures, each computer file having an associated digital signature, said server computer being arranged to perform the operation of:

receiving a connection from another computer;

receiving a request from said other computer for access to at least one computer file stored on said server computer;

retrieving ~~the or each~~said at least one requested computer file;

retrieving the digital signature or signatures associated with ~~the or each~~said at least one requested computer file;

validating the digital signature or signatures associated with ~~the or each~~said at least one requested computer file; and

denying said other computer access to ~~the or each~~said at least one requested computer file if the digital signature or signatures associated with ~~the or each~~said at least one requested computer file is invalid.

5. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a server computer comprising:

receiving a request from at least one other computer for access to at least one computer file stored on said server computer; each said computer file having an associated unique digital signature stored on said server computer;

retrieving ~~the or each~~said at least one requested computer file;

retrieving the digital signature or signatures associated with ~~the or each~~said at least one requested computer file; and

validating the unique digital signature or signatures associated with said at least one
requested computer file; and

providing said other computer with access to ~~the or each~~ said at least one requested
computer file only if the digital signature or signatures associated with ~~the or each~~ said at least
one requested computer file is valid.

6. (Currently Amended) A computer program storage medium, said medium
embodying computer readable code for loading into a computer and executable by said computer
to perform the method ~~according to~~ of claim 5.